41PR-7777

<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

A method for cleaning wastewater comprising 1. (Currently Amended)

locating wastewater brine into a flash tank;

238602860115

circulating the brine under pressure through a heat exchanger media to heat the brine to between about 220 to about 230°F (104-110°C);

decreasing the pressure of the heated brine during re-introduction of the pressurized, heated brine into the flash tank by an amount effective to transform at least a portion of water from the brine from liquid to steam; and

removing the steam from the flash tank.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the flash tank has a conical bottom.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the brine is pressurized by circulating the brine upstream against the head of the heat exchanger.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the brine is circulated at about 7 feet per second.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein decreasing the pressure is by passing the pressurized, heated brine through a fog nozzle.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pressure is decreased from about 25 psi (37.2 Pa) to about atmospheric pressure.
- The method of claim 1, further comprising passing the vapor 7. (Currently Amended) phase steam through a demister.
- The method of claim 7, further comprising introducing the 8. (Currently Amended) steam to an air stream for atmospheric venting, condensing the steam to form water.

41PR-7777

07/13/04

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising filtering a portion of the brine from the flash tank to remove solids.

CANTOR COLBURN L

- 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the solids are dewatered.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the filtering and dewatering is by a filter press.
 - 12 24. (Cancelled)
- The method of claim 1, wherein circulating the brine under pressure through a 25. (New) heat exchange media heats the brine to a temperature between about 220 to about 230°F.
- The method of claim 7, further comprising condensing the steam to form 26. (New) water.
- The method of claim 9, wherein the filter is a plate-type filter and the heat 27. (New) exchanger is a shell and tube heat exchanger.
- The method of claim 11, further comprising automatically removing the 28. (New) dewatered solids from the filter press.
- The method of claim 28, wherein the dewatered solids are automatically 29. (New) removed from the filter press by a shaker system.
 - A method for cleaning wastewater, comprising: 30. (New)

circulating wastewater brine under pressure through a shell and tube heat exchanger to form heated brine;

decreasing the pressure of the heated brine during introduction of the heated brine into the tank by an amount effective to transform at least a portion of the heated brine to steam; and

removing the steam from the flash tank.

41PR-7777

- 31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising filtering a portion of the heated brine from the flash tank to remove solids; and dewatering the solids to form dewatered solids; wherein the filtering and dewatering is by a filter press.
- 32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising automatically removing the dewatered solids from the filter press.
- 33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the dewatered solids are automatically removed from the filter press by a shaker system.